Improving efficiency in Cochin Port

199. SHRI P. K. KUNJACHEN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cochin Port authorities approached the Government with suggestions for improving the efficiency and competitiveness of the said port;

(b) if so, the details of the said suggestions; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The scheme proposed by the port for modernisation, replacement of old assets and improvement of training facilities have been included in the Working Group Report for Port Sector in the VIII Plan. The VIII Plan is yet to be finalised. To improve competitiveness, the port has suggested Government's subsidy for its heavy expenditure on maintenance dredging and also moratorium on Government loans extended to the port. No decisions have been taken as yet on these policy issues.

Sharp fall in cargo traffic in Cochin Port

200. SHRI P. K. KUNJACHEN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cargo traffic in Cochin Port registered a sharp fall recently; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER FOR SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The total traffic handled at Cochin Port during 1989-90 declined to 71.11 lakh tonnes from 78.24 lakh tonnes in 1988-89 mainly due to decline in POL traffic which declined to 55.60 lakh tonnes in 1989-90 from 62.68 lakh tonnes in the preceding year. There was a shut down of Cochin Refineries during 1989-90 for 45 days for periodic maintenance.

Map of India in a Urdu text book in Andhra Pradesh

201. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a text book meant for Urdu medium fourth standard printed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh showed a map of India without Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether any inquiry has been made in the matter; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government against those responsible therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Information is being collected from the Government of Andhra Pradesh and will be laid on the Table of the House on its receipt.

Invitation of individual appeals by Amnesty International

202. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been lrawn to the Amnesty International's invitation for appeals from individuals across the world to protest to Government of India against possible extrajudicial executions' in the troubled areas of Jammu and Kashmir State; If so, the response so far received in this regard; and

(b) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) The appeal said to have been